

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00756 071129Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

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FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: CURRENT MEDIA REACTION

IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "ISRAEL AND M.E. PEACE", THE BULLETIN  
(CONSERVATIVE) OF JULY 4 (EVENING) COMMENTS:

"....THE EXCHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE, AND WHAT ONE CAN  
CALL THE FORD INITIATIVE, STARTING IN SALZBURG LAST MONTH, HAS ONLY  
SERVED TO HELP CONFIRM THAT MR. KISSINGER'S FAILURE WAS THE RESULT  
OF THE HUGE GAP THAT LIES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, AND WHILST THERE  
HAS BEEN A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF ISRAEL TO GO SLOWLY IN AN EFFORT  
TO REACH WHAT COULD HAVE BECOME A FURTHER STEP IN THE SEARCH FOR A  
SETTLEMENT, SOMETHING MUST HAVE INTERVENED THAT UPSET NOT ONLY THE  
ISRAELIS, BUT ALSO THE AMERICANS.

IT HAD BEEN QUITE CATEGORICALLY STATED THAT ISRAEL WILL RETREAT  
TO SAFE FRONTIERS. AND ISRAEL IS TAKING A LINE OF ACTION THAT HAS  
BEEN DICTATED BY CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ORIGINATED FROM THE OTHER SIDE.  
IT IS ONE OF THOSE PARADOXES OF HISTORY THAT THE TWO RACES SHOULD  
CONTINUE TO PREACH ENMITY; AND ISRAEL IS WELL AWARE THAT EVEN IF IT  
WERE TO ACCEPT THAT THE PRESENT LEADERS ON THE ARAB SIDE NOW  
NEGOTIATING HAVE THE MOST EXCELLENT INTENTIONS, IT IS ALSO AWARE  
THAT A VOLATILE SUCCESSOR, UNDER THE THUMB OR AT THE MERCY OF  
THOSE WHO WIELD AND CONTROL MONEY IN THE OIL WORLD, COULD UPROOT  
ANYTHING THAT HAD BEEN AGREED UPON - THAT IS ONE JUSTIFICATION  
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PAGE 02 VALLET 00756 071129Z

WHICH ISRAEL MUST HAVE AT THE BACK OF HER LEADERS' MINDS ALL THE

TIME.

ISRAEL IS IN NO HURRY - THOUGH THE STRAIN ON HER ECONOMY BEING ON A WAR FOOTING MUST BE NEARING BREAKING POINT; YET WITH DOURNESS AND DOGGEDNESS HOLDS ON, IN THE HOPE THAT THE DOVE OF PEACE COULD COME TO THE AREA. THE PRESSURE, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, THAT HAS COME FROM THE AMERICANS IS PRAGMATIC, THOUGH ONE COULD NOT TERM IT SCANDALOUS, BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS HAD PREVENTED THE AMERICANS FROM BEING TOO FAR, AT LEAST, IN THE OPEN. YET THE STATEMENT, SHORT AND TERSE, WITHOUT MELODRAMA, THT ISRAEL IS READY TO STAND ALONE, IS FULL OF MEANING THAT COULD NOT HAVE ESCAPED THE ATTENTION OF ANY ONE WHO FOLLOW MIDDLE EAST POLICIES - BE THEY JUST DABBLERS, OR SEEKING PUBLICITY, OR FOR OTHER MOTIVES. PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CAN COME WHEN THE PRINCIPLES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE NOT FLOUTED, WHEN THE DAGGER, POLITICAL OR OTHERWISE, IS NOT HIDDEN, READY TO BE USED, AND WHEN EMBRACES REALLY MEAN SOMETHING". BIRN

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